

RESOLUTION NO. 20210204-064

WHEREAS, the City Council of Austin is committed to defending democratic institutions, the integrity of our elections, and both the security of people who carry out the democratic process and the facilities in which the work of our democracy is conducted; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Austin is committed to ending the spread of hate, bigotry, and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected characteristic as defined by law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Austin wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of all of its community members and to ensure that they will be protected and their rights respected; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Austin wishes to affirm its commitment to cultivating an inclusive community, including within Austin operations and institutions; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of our community is beneficial to all within it, making us stronger and more resilient; and

WHEREAS, each of our elected leaders has the ability and obligation to promote inclusiveness; celebrate diversity; work to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society; prevent the spread of misinformation and disinformation; and reject hate and bias in all forms and should set a positive example for their constituents in this regard; and

WHEREAS, the January 6, 2021 domestic terrorism incident at our nation's Capitol does not reflect the values of Austin; and

WHEREAS, ADL's (the Anti-Defamation League) report on Murder and Extremism in the United States in 2019 found that domestic extremists killed at least 42 people in the United States in 17 separate incidents in 2019, making 2019 the sixth deadliest year on record for domestic extremist-related killings since 1970; and

WHEREAS, the ADL report found that the extremist-related murders of 2019 were overwhelmingly (90%) linked to right-wing extremists, with all but one of the incidents tied to right-wing extremism, and 81% of extremist-related murders in 2019 committed by white supremacists specifically; and

WHEREAS, disinformation, misinformation, and online conspiracy theories such as QAnon are spreading and inspiring real-world violence; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Austin supports the peaceful exercise of free speech, free assembly, and freedom to worship safely for all people; and

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

1. The City Council of Austin affirms its ongoing commitment to cultivating an inclusive, safe, and just society and culture that values the diversity of our community, works to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society, and celebrates both our individuality and commonality.
2. The City Council of Austin denounces the January 6, 2021 domestic terrorism incident at our nation's Capitol.

3. The City Council of Austin denounces anti-government extremism, white supremacy, racism, antisemitism, misogyny, Islamophobia, anti-LGBTQ+ hate, ableism, ageism and all hateful speech and bias-motivated violent actions in our community.
4. The City Council of Austin denounces extremist conspiracy theories, misinformation, and disinformation that cultivate an alienated and mistrustful electorate, undermine democratic institutions and processes, and increase the likelihood of violence.
5. The City Council of Austin denounces attempts to exploit governmental procedure and basic government functions for personal political gain.
6. The City Council of Austin commits to fostering an environment within Austin operations and institutions that does not tolerate anti-government extremist, white supremacist, racist, antisemitic, misogynist, Islamophobic, anti-LGBTQ+, ableist, and other hateful speech and actions.
7. The City Council of Austin commits to countering hate and extremism through engagement with community leaders, governmental transparency and public information-sharing regarding efforts to fight extremism, and the investigation and prosecution of those who commit criminal acts, consistent with civil liberties protections.

8. The City Council of Austin urges residents to join us by adopting these values in their own lives, calling attention to these harms, and denouncing hate and extremism to help keep us all safe.

ADOPTED: February 4, 2021

ATTEST:



Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk